

HAVEFORDWEST BOROUGH COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR.
1947.

W.J.Y.SPEEDY, M.B., B.Ch., L.R.C.P.& S., D.P.H.



To his Worship the Mayor,
Aldermen & Councillors.

District Health Department,
10 Picton Place,
Haverfordwest.

July 1948.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting this report of the work
of the Public Health Department of the Council for the year 1947.

I must express gratification for the assistance and
co-operation received by me from the officials and the members of
the Council. And, in particular, the assistance given to me by
Mr. Evans, the capable Sanitary Officer to the Council.

With the hope that the following pages may prove
interesting and informative,

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W.J.Y. Speedy.

District Medical Officer.



ESTIMATED MID-YEAR POPULATION IN 1947.

7,156.

NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION DURING 1947.

104.

CONTENTS:-

1. BIRTHS & BIRTH-RATES,	Page.	1.
2. DEATHS & DEATH-RATES.	"	1.
3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.	"	2.
4. HOUSING.	"	3.
5. HYGIENE & SANITATION.	"	3.
6. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.	"	5.
7. WATER SUPPLIES.	"	5.
8. FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.	"	6.
9. MILK SUPPLIES.	"	6.
10. FOOD CONTROL.	"	7.
11. PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES.	"	7.



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BIRTHS & BIRTH-RATES.

The following is the summary of the births occurring in the Borough during the year:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
LIVE-BIRTHS:-			
Legitimate.	76.	83.	159.
Illegitimate.	5.	6.	11.
Total.	81.	89.	170.
STILL-BIRTHS:-			
Legitimate.	3.	-	3.
Illegitimate.	1.	-	1.
Total.	4.	-	4.

The Birth-Rate for the year is 24.3 i.e. 24.3 births per 1000 of the population. The corresponding Rate for the County of Pembroke is 20.3, and for the whole of England & Wales is 20.5. Thus it will be seen that the Birth-Rate in the Borough is well above average. The Birth-Rate for the District for 1945 was 16.2.

The Illegitimate Birth-Rate is 68.8, which is somewhat higher than the Rate of 52 for the whole of England & Wales.

The Still-Birth Rate is 23, which compares favourably with the Rate of 24 for the whole of England & Wales.

DEATHS & DEATH-RATES.

The following deaths occurred in the Borough during the year:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths from all causes.	41.	45.	86.

The Death-Rate for the year is 12.0 i.e. 12 deaths per 1000 of the population. The corresponding Rate for the County of Pembroke is 13.2, and for the whole of England & Wales 12.0. Thus it will be seen that the Death-Rate in the Borough compares favourably with the County and the Country as a whole.

The causes of death were as follows:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Diseases of the Heart & Circulatory System.	15.	10.	25.
Acute Respiratory diseases.	5.	9.	14.
Diseases of Infants.	4.	5.	9.
Cancer (all forms).	4.	4.	8.
Diseases of the Brain & Nervous System.	2.	4.	6.
Tuberculosis. (all forms).	2.	2.	4.
Violent Deaths.	2.	2.	4.
Influenza.	1.	1.	2.
Diseases of Kidneys & Urinary System.	-	2.	2.
Diseases of the Digestive System.	-	1.	1.
Unclassified.	6.	5.	11.
Total.	41.	45.	86.

Cancer accounted for 9.3% total deaths.

Tuberculosis accounted for 4.6% total deaths.

DEATHS & DEATH-RATES.(Continued).

The Infantile Mortality Rate i.e. the number of deaths of children under 1 year of age per 1000 births, is 51.7. This rate is higher than the corresponding Rate of 48.1 for the County of Pembroke, and the Rate of 41 for the whole of England & Wales.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following Infectious Diseases were notified during the year:-

	Measles.	35.
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	7.
.x.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	5.
	Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)	2.
	Chicken Pox.	1.

The following deaths from Infectious Diseases took place during the year:-

	Bronchitis & Pneumonia.	9.
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	3.
	Influenza.	2.
.x.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	1.

Deaths from Infectious Diseases therefore account for 17.4% of total deaths.

There was no undue prevalence of any Infectious Disease, but the number of cases of Tuberculosis is disconcerting. The housing situation in the Borough is probably a predisposing factor in this respect.

7 premises were disinfected following Infectious Disease during the year.

.x. not strictly an Infectious Disease but included for completeness.

HOUSING.

Due to the lack of an up-to-date Housing Survey it is not possible to give accurate figures regarding the number of families inadequately housed and the number of cases of over-crowding. It is estimated that 50 families were re-housed during the year.

During the year 13 new houses were completed, and 54 others were under construction. It is estimated that 87 new houses will be commenced during 1948.

43 Informal notices and 13 Statutory notices were served for repairs to houses during the year: the majority of these were complied with. One Demolition Order was served, but no demolition took place during the year.

Adequate housing is one of the greatest factors in the maintenance of Public Health. A Housing Programme which will re-house the inadequately housed and relieve over-crowding, within a reasonable time, should be the object of the Council. In order to plan such a programme it is essential to have an up-to-date record of every house in the Borough. But even without correct figures it is evident that the Housing Programme during the year was inadequate to meet the needs of the Borough.

Approximately 23 huts in the Borough are being used as temporary accommodation, and house 44 adults and 38 children. The housing conditions here vary from hut to hut, but are generally unsatisfactory, particularly for the children.

HYGIENE & SANITATION.

GENERAL NUISANCES.

33 Informal notices and 4 Formal notices for the abatement of nuisance were served during the year. Nuisances consisted chiefly of defective drainage, accumulation of offensive matter, and unclean premises.

One case was taken to the Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

SEWERAGE.

It is estimated that approx.99% of premises in the Borough are connected to the sewers. During the year 13 new premises were connected.

Sewage is dispersed off, in the crude state, into the river Cleddau at various points in the passage of the river through the Borough. This dispersal gives rise to a nuisance at certain times, and is a potential danger to Public Health. Discharge outlets should be well down-stream of the Borough. Many sewers are defective and without adequate manhole access. The Borough should be 100% sewered as soon as possible.

CONTROL OF VERMIN.

Continuous Rodent Surveys were carried out during the year by the Rodent Officer. It is estimated that 3,315 rats were killed. The sewers were disinfected three times.

No other forms of infestation were reported.

HYGIENE & SANITATION.(Continued).

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse was collected 3 times per week during the year. The proper covered vehicles for refuse collection are not being used: this creates a nuisance, and is a danger to the Public Health. Also the receptacles provided by house-holders are generally unsatisfactory. These receptacles should be made of metal and be fitted with an air-tight lid. Exposed refuse offers breeding and feeding grounds for flies. Flies are capable of spreading many kinds of diseases and hence any neglect which leads to their multiplication automatically adversely affect the Public Health.

Refuse is disposed of by tipping at the Saltings below the Gas Quay. This tipping should be controlled i.e. deposited in orderly layers of fixed dimensions, and covered with a few inches of soil, brick dust, or other suitable material as soon as it is deposited. Uncontrolled Tipping serves as a breeding place for flies and vermin, is unsightly, causes a nuisance in the immediate neighbourhood, and is of little value in reclaiming land.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

There are 3 Public Conveniences in the Borough, plus 2 further conveniences connected with Recreational grounds. There is little doubt that the Public Sanitary accomodation is inadequate, but this could be met by enlargement and improvement of existing conveniences rather than the building of new premises.

The general hygienic standard of the conveniences on St. Thomas Green is unsatisfactory, and particularly during the large Fairs. This convenience requires improvement and better supervision. During Fairs adequate access to the convenience should be maintained and a supervisor employed full time. Also during the Fairs the provision of extra temporary urinals should be considered. These measures are necessary to reduce the nuisance which undoubtedly arises.

STREET CLEANSING.

This has been carried out during the year under the supervision of the Surveyors' Department.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

112 children were immunised in the Borough during the year. This is a satisfactory achievement.

The value of Immunisation will be seen on examination of the statistics for the whole of England & Wales during the past 12 years. These are as follows:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Cases of Diphtheria.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>% Cases to Deaths.</u>
1935.	65,084.	3,408.	5.2.
1941.	50,797.	2,641.	5.2.
1942.	41,404.	1,827.	4.4.
1943.	34,662.	1,371.	3.9.
1944.	29,949.	934.	3.1.
1945.	25,246.	694.	2.8.
1946.	18,283.	472.	2.5.
1947.	10,469.	245.	2.3.

It will be seen from these figures that both the total number of cases of Diphtheria and the number of deaths have fallen considerably, particularly since the commencement of intensive Immunisation campaigns from 1941 onwards.

The object aimed at in Diphtheria Immunisation is to Immunise every child between the age of 6 - 12 months: to re-inforce this Immunity at commencement of school i.e. 5 - 6 years: and to further re-inforce at age 10 - 11 years to protect the child until the end of school-life.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Practically all premises in the Borough are supplied with a piped water supply. The Source of the Borough's water supply is partly from the Prescelly gathering ground and partly from Crow-Hill Well. The Prescelly water passes through a modern filtration and treatment plant and is invariably of a high bacteriological standard as it reaches the consumer. On the other hand the water from Crow-Hill Well occasionally shows fairly heavy contamination. For this reason Crow-Hill Well is not a satisfactory source of water supply: but if it is to be used as such it is imperative that a reliable system of chlorination be maintained to protect the consumer. The system of chlorination during 1947 was inadequate.

An adequate supply of pure water is a large factor in maintaining the public health. To ensure an adequate supply at all times it is necessary to have a holding reservoir capable of holding at least 10 days supply. The present holding capacity in the Borough is approximately 1 days supply.

During the year 2 chemical analyses and 4 bacteriological tests were carried out on the Borough's water supply. This was inadequate to ensure a safe supply. Monthly bacteriological sampling, and quarterly chemical sampling should be maintained.

4 premises were connected to the water mains during the year, and 43 renewals of old connections were carried out.

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

There are approximately 100 premises in the Borough subject to the Factories & Workshops Act. 69 inspections of the premises were carried out during the year. 3 Formal notices were served for improvement of premises. The chief defects found were general lack of cleanliness, and insufficient sanitary accomodation.

The chief Factories & Workshops are as follows:-

Bakeries, Butcheries, Vehicle Workshops, Joiners' Yards, Electrical Workshops, Laundry, Mineral Water Factory, Stone-Masons' Yards, Food Factory, Brewery, Slaughter House, and Gas Works.

MILK SUPPLIES.

The following is a summary of Milk Producers and Retailers in the Borough:-

	<u>Designated.</u>	<u>Non-Designated.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Producer-Wholesalers.	2.	9.	11.
Producer-Retailers.	-	1.	1.
Retailers.	6.	1.	7.

Approximately 95% milk consumed in the Borough is Designated Milk: approximately 2% of milk consumed is Pasteurised.

382 samples of milk were taken for examination during the year: of these 15 were unsatisfactory. 31 inspections of cowsheds and 54 inspections of dairies were carried out during the year. The supply of Milk, from a Public Health point of view, was satisfactory during 1947. The general hygienic standard of delivery could be greatly improved.

Many human diseases are attributable, directly or indirectly, to milk. The most important of these are Bovine Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary tuberculosis), Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, and Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis). Bovine tuberculosis causes much suffering and crippling, especially amongst children. During the year 5 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in the Borough. The probable cause of these cases was infected milk. Designated milk affords reasonable security from Bovine Tuberculosis, but to ensure a 100% safe milk Pasteurisation is necessary.

FOOD CONTROL.

The following premises in the Borough are registered under the Food & Drugs Act:-

Ice-Cream Premises.	20.
Prepared Food Premises.	23.
Slaughter Houses.	1.
Knackers' Yards.	nil.

30 inspections of registered premises were carried out during the year.

The following food stuffs were condemned during the year:-

Flour.	255 lbs.
Dried Fruit.	120 lbs.
Tomatoes.	66 lbs.
Dried Peas.	56 lbs.
Smoked Fish.	84 lbs.
Sugar.	448 lbs.
Tinned Foods.	296 tins.
Barley.	112 lbs.
Corned Beef.	975 lbs.
Unfit Meat.	25,684 lbs.

The following animals were slaughtered in the Borough during the year:-

Cattle.	2,318.
Calves.	4,021.
Sheep.	11,509.
Pigs.	242.

The following carcasses were condemned:-

Cattle.	35.	(chiefly T.B.)
Calves.	3.	
Sheep.	2.	
Pigs.	4.	

The transportation and delivery of food, particularly bread and meat, is unsatisfactory in many cases.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Service, the School Medical Service, the Domestic Help Health Visiting and Home Nursing Services, and the care of Mental Defectives and the Blind are the responsibility of the County Council.

